



CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT
& HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

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**ASIA-PACIFIC DISEASE OUTBREAK
/SURVEILLANCE REPORT**

Week of Jun 20, 2005

AUSTRALIA

Cryptosporidiosis Outbreak in New South Wales, Australia

The New South Wales Health Department is urging anyone who has recently suffered diarrhea not to swim in public pools following a cryptosporidiosis outbreak across the state. The disease was spread by direct contact with people who had diarrhea or by swallowing contaminated water, most usually from swimming pools. About 180 cases of the intestinal infections were reported during April and May 2005. No specific treatment was available for the infection, from which it usually took 4 weeks to recover. The last cryptosporidiosis outbreak in NSW was in 1998 when more than 1000 cases were confirmed and linked to contaminated swimming pools. [Transmission of Cryptosporidia through swimming pools is well known, and the cysts of the parasite are resistant to chlorine, which makes disinfection of the pool difficult.]

Source:

· AAP, Jun 17, 2005, http://www.thecouriermail.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5936,15641227%255E1702,00.html

· Promed Mail, Jun 17, 2005.

http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:10662858187697748503::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,29344

CHINA

Encephalitis Infects 100 Children and Kills Two in China

Two outbreaks of viral encephalitis have been reported in Gansu (central China) and Guangxi (southern China) provinces, with over 100 children infected and two deaths reported. These outbreaks have health authorities on alert as the outbreaks come during the start of China's peak season for the disease.

Source:

· South China Morning Post, Jun 23, 2005, <http://None>

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FIJI

Typhoid Fever in Fiji of Great Concern

The Fiji Ministry of Health is concerned over the increasing number of people contracting typhoid fever. There were 92 reported cases of typhoid up to 16 June, a 40% increase from the 39 cases reported in April. So far only one person has died from the disease. The causes of typhoid include overcrowded homes, groundwater source (wells, creeks), pit toilets, poor environmental care, and failure to practice safe hygiene. Of the 92 reported cases, 36 were reported in the Central and Eastern Divisions compared to 27 in April. In the North, there are 52 reported cases compared to 13 in April.

Source:

- Fiji Times Online, Jun 20, 2005, <http://www.fijitimes.com>
- Pacific Islands Report, Jun 20, 2005, <http://pidp.eastwestcenter.org/pireport/2005/June/06-20-13.htm>

HONG KONG

First Cholera Case of Year Confirmed in Hong Kong

The Center for Health Protection, Hong Kong, has confirmed the year's first cholera case. A 27 year old woman developed diarrhea, nausea and vomiting on 17 June 2005 and was admitted to Princess Margaret Hospital on 22 June 2005. She is in stable condition. She had lived in Indonesia and arrived in Hong Kong on 15 June.

Source:

- News.gov.hk, Jun 24, 2005, <http://news.gov.hk/en/category/healthandcommunity/050624/html/050624en05001.htm>
- Promed Mail, Jun 24, 2005, http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:8552852867995363248::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,29409

INDIA

Encephalitis Kills 36 Children in the Muzaffarpur District, India

Thirty-six children have died in the Muzaffarpur district [Bihar state – northeast, India] during the third week of June 2005 due to suspected encephalitis. The children died after developing symptoms of encephalitis -- a sudden light fever in the early morning, convulsions, unconsciousness and death. Health officials sent a four-member team to Muzaffarpur to study the cause of the spread and to direct district officials to take preventive measures. In 1995 encephalitis hit Muzaffarpur and claimed the lives of 167 people. Outbreaks of encephalitis have been reported frequently from India over many years and a confirmed diagnosis has been obtained only rarely. Japanese encephalitis has been the favored diagnosis and has occasionally been confirmed. The current outbreak resembles the one in 1995 -- results of the investigation are awaited with interest.

Source:

- Rediff.com, India, Jun 19, 2005, <http://in.rediff.com/news/2005/jun/19kids.htm>

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· Promed Mail, Jun 19, 2005, http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:7882098945942884672::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,29361

Anthrax Kills One Person in Orissa's Koraput District in India

One person has died and fifteen others have been affected with Anthrax in the Koraput district of India. Earlier some cattle had died in the area due to anthrax. The people who consumed their meat were affected by anthrax. A team of doctors has been working in the affected areas. They first started treating the serious cases and later treated those people who came in contact with the disease and also their family members.

Source:

· Keralanext.com, Jun 20, 2005, <http://www.keralanext.com/news/?id=233143>

INDONESIA

Diarrhea Kills 17 People in Indonesia

A diarrhea outbreak in several villages near Jakarta has killed 17 people and sickened more than 250. The illness spread through villages in two sub-districts, Pakuhaji and Sepatan, just west of Jakarta, since the second week of June. Nearly 260 people have been affected by diarrhea and most victims were children under the age of 10. Health officials fear the death toll increase further. Health authorities are taking immediate and necessary steps to stop the illness from claiming more lives.

Source:

· Reliefweb, Jun 22, 2005, <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/RMOI-6DL9DL?OpenDocument>

Polio Cases Climb to 51 in Indonesia

On 20 June 2005, five new polio cases were confirmed in Indonesia, bringing the total number of cases to 51. Two of these cases are from Bogor district, one from Cinajur, and one from Sukabumi, all in the province of Jawa Barat (south of Jakarta). The most recent of these new cases had onset of paralysis on 28 May [2005], before the immunization campaign held on 31 May to 2 June. The fifth case is from Demak district in Jawa Tengah (east of Jakarta), a hitherto unaffected province and outside the area where the immunization campaign was held.

Source:

· Polio Eradication Website, Jun 20, 2005, <http://www.polioeradication.org/content/pressreleases/Indonesiapolio20June2005.pdf>

· WHO CSR website, Jun 20, 2005, http://www.who.int/csr/don/2005_06_20/en/

· Promed Mail, Jun 20, 2005,

http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:5074797087329413819::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,29363

· Reuters Foundation Alertnet, Jun 20, 2005, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/JAK23036.htm>

MALAYSIA

Cholera Outbreak Closes 41 Eateries in Semporna District, Malaysia

Forty-one eateries in Malaysia were ordered closed, as a cholera outbreak in the

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Semporna district reached a critical stage. The closure followed an inspection of all the eateries in the district by a team of health officers. The inspection was conducted in light of the cholera outbreak in the district since May 2005. The closure was for unsanitary conditions. In May 2005, 116 students of SK Bubul and SMK Kabongan were warded at the Semporna District Hospital, after being confirmed as cholera carriers. More than 160 people, including students, sought treatment at the hospital for cholera symptoms over the past week [2nd week June 2005], with 17 confirmed cases.

Source:

· New Straits Times, Jun 14, 2005, http://www.nst.com.my/Current_News/NST/Tuesday/NewsBreak/20050614192324/Article/indexb.html

MYANMAR

Monks in Monywa, Myanmar Affected by Cholera

Ninety monks of Maha Zawtikayama Buddhist Monastery in Monywa Town, central Burma, suffered from cholera and have been treated. The cholera outbreak started 12 June 2005, after the monks were reportedly consuming old and over-ripe fruits. A team of health staff led by a doctor opened an emergency clinic within the monastery compound for the sick monks. Apart from this, some monks were being treated at Monywa's civil hospital. Out of the 74 monks who received treatment in the emergency clinic, over 30 have returned home after receiving 3-4 days treatment. Eight of 13 monks taken to civil hospital have recovered. Recently, there have been reports of at least 3 deaths in Myaing Township in central Burma caused by cholera.

Source:

· Mizzima News, Jun 17, 2005, <http://www.mizzima.com/mizzima/archives/news-in-2005/News-in-June/17-Jun-05-05.htm>

· Promed Mail, Jun 19, 2005,

http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:3713905363008647743::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,29362

NEW ZEALAND

Epidemic of Influenza B Virus Infection in New Zealand

New Zealand is currently experiencing an epidemic of influenza B virus infection of both influenza B Shanghai-like virus and influenza B Hong Kong-like virus. Influenza B Hong Kong-like virus is currently the predominant strain. Children and young people are mainly affected with absenteeism in schools in some areas of greater than 20%. So far three deaths have been identified in association with this epidemic: The viral isolates in all three cases have been identified as an influenza B Hong Kong-like strain. This strain of influenza virus has not been common in New Zealand since 1987, and children and young people can be at particular risk of serious illness (most people born since 1987 will not have natural immunity and are hence more likely to be susceptible). The current Southern Hemisphere vaccine contains an influenza B Shanghai-like strain.

Source:

· Public Health Directorate, New Zealand Ministry of Health, Jun 22, 2005, <http://www.moh.govt.nz>

· New Zealand Ministry of Health, press release, Jun 21, 2005, <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/GE0506/S00103.htm>

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PHILIPPINES

Meningococemia Death Toll Reaches 72 in Cordillera, Philippines

The death toll from meningococemia from September 26, 2004, to June 11 this year has reached 72, according to a report from the Department of Health. The report says 167 of the 346 confirmed meningococemia cases came from Baguio, Benguet, Mountain Province and Ifugao in Cordillera (north Philippines). An average of 12 suspected and confirmed cases of meningococemia were reported weekly during the past two months. The number of cases has decreased to 10 from June 5 to June 11. The report noted that the age of patients infected with the disease ranged from 7 months to 48 years old with a median age of 20 years. More males than females died from the disease. Of the 72 reported deaths, 45 were males.

Source:

· The Manila Times, Jun 21, 2005, <http://www.manilatimes.net/national/2005/jun/21/yehey/prov/20050621pro3.html>

Malaria Kills One Person and Sickens 25 Others in General Santos City, Philippines

Malaria has killed one person and sickened 25 others in General Santos City (southern Philippines) this past week. The patients are being treated at the city district hospital and so far eight are listed in serious condition due to a sudden drop in hemoglobin count. Two of them needed immediate blood transfusion. Physicians are doing all they can to avoid cerebral malaria, a complication, which develops when the malarial parasite reaches the brain. Malaria is a serious, sometimes fatal disease caused by a parasite carried by an infected mosquito. Symptoms include fever and flu-like illness, chills, headache, muscle aches, and fatigue. Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea may also occur. The last recorded malaria outbreak in this city affected at least 40 people. Health personnel are conducting intensive clean-up of possible breeding areas of mosquitoes.

Source:

· Mindanews, Jun 21, 2005, <http://www.mindanews.com/2005/06/21nws-malaria.html>

TAIWAN

Indigenous Cholera Case Confirmed in Taiwan

The first indigenous case of cholera in Taiwan since 2000 has been confirmed and reported to the WHO. The patient was identified as a 72 year old woman resident of Tainan County. Because of comprehensive upgrades of Taiwan's household water supply and improved sanitation, the nation has managed to keep the disease at bay for the past 5 years -- discounting a few imported cases in which people had fallen ill after

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returning from trips to Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand. The woman fell ill 15 June 2005 and sought medical treatment. Health officials are trying to determine the source of the illness.

Source:

· Taiwan News, Jun 24, 2005, <http://www.etaiwannews.com/Taiwan/Society/2005/06/24/1119576930.htm>
· Promed Mail, Jun 24, 2005, http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:8552852867995363248::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,29409

VIETNAM

Two Additional Avian Influenza Cases in North Vietnam

Two more people from northern Viet Nam have contracted avian influenza. The two new victims tested positive for the virus after being admitted to Bach Mai Hospital in Hanoi over the weekend. This brings the number of human cases to 13 over the past two weeks. The patients, all from the northern provinces, are in stable condition. It is not yet clear whether these cases of avian influenza have been confirmed by laboratory test or whether the information has been communicated to the World Health Organization. During the third week of June 2005, a Vietnamese doctor who treated bird flu patients tested positive for the virus. A second test failed to confirm the initial diagnosis. So far there has been no evidence of human-to-human transmission of the virus.

Source:

· ABC News, USA, Jun 20, 2005, <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=863677>
· Promed Mail, Jun 21, 2005, http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:2381156471807541692::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,29370
· Reuters Foundation AlertNet, Jun 20, 2005, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/HAN28570.htm>

Other World News

AFGHANISTAN

Cholera Affects Thousands in Afghanistan

From 25 May to 16 June 2005, the Ministry of Health in Afghanistan reported a total of 3245 cases of acute watery diarrhea in Kabul. Out of these 777 were admitted to hospitals for severe dehydration. *Vibrio cholerae* has been laboratory-confirmed in 30 stool samples out of 44. The World Health Organization is assisting the Ministry of Health to administer its control measures and has sent cholera kits for case management.

Source:

· WHO Outbreak Reports, Jun 21, 2005, http://www.who.int/csr/don/2005_06_21/en/index.html
· Promed Mail, Jun 21, 2005, http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:2381156471807541692::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,29375

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WORLD

Polio Threat Decreasing Globally

With more than 500 new polio cases worldwide this year, the disease is still a threat but is decreasing globally. Most of this year's problem can be traced to Nigeria who suspended vaccinations for a year, and by the time it resumed them 10 other countries had become infected. There were 350,000 cases a year in the mid-1980s and slightly more than 1,000 in 2004 and less than so far this year indicating that eradicating polio is near. Endemic, wild polio virus has been eliminated from all but six countries -- Nigeria, India, Pakistan, Niger, Afghanistan and Egypt -- and the incidence has been reduced by more than 99%, according to the WHO. Travelers visiting areas where the disease is endemic are responsible for the reintroduction of it in places where it was eradicated. The 50 cases reported recently in Indonesia may have come from a returning pilgrim.

Source:

· The Star Online, Jun 22, 2005, http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2005/6/22/worldupdates/2005-06-22T070454Z_01_NOOTR_RTRJONC_0_-206785-1&sec=Worldupdates

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